

RESPONSE AND REMARKS

The Office Action, dated January 11, 2006, issued a Restriction Requirement, construing eleven (11) groups of claims and classifying all of the groups in class 705, subclass 1. The Office Action stated that the Restriction Requirement was issued on the grounds that each of the eleven groups of claims is drawn to an invention that is distinct and separately usable as compared to the other groups of claims. The following groups of claims were construed in the Office Action:

Group I. Claim 4, drawn to a shipment management computer system for selecting a carrier.

Group II. Claims 5 and 6, drawn to a shipment management computer system for calculating itemized charges and for setting charge preferences.

Group III. Claims 8 and 7, drawn to a shipment management computer system for indicating permissible payment methods.

Group IV. Claim 10, drawn to a shipment management computer system which displays service information.

Group V. Claim 11, drawn to a shipping management computer system which displays service.

Group VI. Claims 12, 27-31, 33-35, 44, 45, drawn to a shipment management computer system which uses parcel specification for delivery and calculation of shipping rates.

Group VII. Claims 13-[15], 22, 23, and 25, drawn to a shipping management computer system [which] ships a plurality of parcels and assigns tracking numbers.

Group VIII. Claims 16, 18, and 19, drawn to a shipping management computer system [which] purchases an item and creates a shipping log.

Group IX. Claim 43, drawn to a shipping management computer system which allows a user to modify a previous shipping request.

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Group X. Claim 51, drawn to a shipping management computer system which determines a delivery schedule.

Notably, Claims 36, 42, 49 and 50 were not included in any of the Groups and therefore have not been withdrawn. It is respectfully requested that a Group, or Groups, be identified for Claims 36, 42, 49 and 50 so that those Claims can either be withdrawn as belonging to a non-elected Group, or be examined as part of elected Group VI.

Claims 1-3, 9, 17, 20-21, 24, 26, 32, 37-41, 46-48, and 53 were previously cancelled.

Pursuant to the restriction requirement issued January 11, 2006, and in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, Claims 12, 27-31, 33-35, 44, and 45, construed in the Office Action as Group VI, are hereby formally elected for further examination; Claims 4-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18-19, 22-23, 25, 43, and 51-52, corresponding to the non-elected Groups I-V, and VII-XI, are hereby withdrawn from examination without prejudice to the filing, during the pendency of the present Application, of a divisional application directed to one of the non-elected Groups in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 121 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.142. Because Claims 36, 42, 49 and 50 were not included in any of the Groups, those Claims remain in the application and have not been withdrawn; it is respectfully requested that a Group, or Groups, be identified for Claims 36, 42, 49 and 50 so that those Claims can either be withdrawn as belonging to a non-elected Group, or be examined as part of elected Group VI.

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In view of the election above, it is respectfully requested that further examination of the present application proceed for Claims 12, 27-31, 33-35, 44, and 45, and, depending on the Group(s) identified for Claims 36, 42, 49 and 50, for Claims 36, 42, 49 and 50 that remain in the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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626/796-2856